

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-04 INR-05 OES-03 L-02 PM-03

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P 170920Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9053

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 9724

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR

SUBJ: US/IRAN JOINT COMMISSION

REF: A. BUCHAREST 5069 (SECTO 403) B. STATE 253054

1. THE AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED BY DCM CALLED ON IRANIAN MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE HUSHANG ANSARY NOVEMBER 16 TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE DECISIONS REACHED AT THE FIRST JOINT COMMISSION MEETING NOVEMBER 2. TO GIVE FOCUS TO THE DISCUSSION, WE HAD PREPARED A DRAFT NOTE WHICH PROPOSED THAT SUBCOMMITTEES BE ESTABLISHED TO EXPLORE IN DETAIL CLOSER COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, NUCLEAR ENERGY, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. UNDER EACH OF THESE HEADINGS A PROPOSED AGENDA OF PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS WERE ALSO SUGGESTED. ANSARY'S FIRST COMMENT WAS THAT LETTERS RATHER THAN NOTES SHOULD BE EXCHANGED WITH HIM INSTEAD OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE THEN SUGGESTED THAT RATHER THAN SUBCOMMITTEES "COMMITTEES" OUGHT TO BE THE DESIGNATION FOR GROUPS FORMED TO DEAL WITH EACH MAJOR AREA OF SUBSTANCE AND THAT FIVE SUCH COMMITTEES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS FOLLOWS: A COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, A COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY AND TRADE, AND A COMMITTEE ON MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT. WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER COMMITTEE, HE SAID HE WAS A BIT UNCERTAIN AS TO WHETHER THAT WOULD BE THE PRECISE DESIGNATION IRAN WOULD DESIRE BUT AGREED THAT WHATEVER ITS NAME, IT WOULD DEAL WITH A BROAD PROGRAM OF EXCHANGE AND

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL SECURITY,

VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT. HEALTH SERVICES AND DRUG REHABILITATION MIGHT ALSO BE INCLUDED.

2. AS TO WHO MIGHT APPROPRIATELY CHAIR EACH COMMITTEE, ANSARY SUGGESTED THAT IT BE THE UNDERSECRETARY OR AGENCY HEAD LEVEL AND QUERIED US CLOSELY AS TO WHETHER SYMMETRY COULD BE ACHIEVED FOR EACH COMMITTEE. IN THE CASE OF AGRICULTURE, NUCLEAR ENERGY, AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT, WE AGREED THAT THE LINES OF AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY WERE FAIRLY CLEAR AND PARALLEL IN OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS DEALING WITH THESE MATTERS. THIS WAS LESS TRUE HOWEVER IN THE CASE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY AND TRADE. TO BREACH THIS GAP, THEREFORE, IT WAS TENTATIVELY SUGGESTED THAT SUBGROUPS MIGHT BE FORMED AT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OR DIRECTOR GENERAL LEVEL TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC PROJECTS UNDER THESE MAJOR HEADINGS. UNRESOLVED WAS WHO MIGHT CHAIR EACH COMMISSION ON EITHER SIDE. WHILE IT WAS AGREED THAT WE SHOULD SEEK TO BE AS FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC AS POSSIBLE, IT WAS QUITE CLEAR THAT ANSARY PUT HIGH STORE ON ACHIEVING AS CLOSE ORGANIZATION SYMMETRY AS POSSIBLE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE FIRST MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEES TO BE FORMED, ANSARY ASKED THAT THEY BE HELD IN TEHRAN. HE FORESAW MUCH WORK THAT HAD TO BE DONE BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION WHICH HE SUGGESTED MIGHT BE HELD IN EARLY APRIL IN WASHINGTON. AT THAT TIME HE SAID HE HOPED THAT SEVERAL BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS COULD BE PRESENTED FOR THE COMMISSION'S APPROVAL. IT WAS THOUGHT BEST THAT THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEES IN TEHRAN SHOULD BE SPACED OUT OVER THE COMING MONTHS AND THE WORK CONCLUDED NOT LATER THAN EARLY MARCH IN ORDER THAT PREPARATIONS COULD BE COMPLETED FOR THE NEXT JOINT COMMISSION MEETING.

4. COMMENTING ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE WORK THAT THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES MIGHT UNDERTAKE, ANSARY SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE JOINT US-IRANIAN PROJECTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA OF ONE COMMITTEE OR ANOTHER. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE SPECIFIC REFERENCE MADE TO US PARTICIPATION IN IRANIAN DEVELOPMENT PLANS PARTICULARLY THOSE INVOLVING NEW INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS PORTS, ROADS AND DAMS. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF MONEY INVOLVED IN THESE PROJECTS AND THE US OUGHT TO STAKE OUT ITS SHARE.

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TM FINALLY ANSARY SAID HE WOULD LIKE THE JOINT COMMISSION TO BE SEEN AS SOMETHING UNIQUE AND NOT JUST ANOTHER ARRANGEMENT LIKE IRAN HAS WITH "BULGARIA" AND A NUMBER OF OTHER SMALLER COUNTRIES. HE ASKED THEREFORE THAT WE THINK OF SOME STRUCTURAL OR SUBSTANTIVE IDEA WHICH WOULD CLEARLY DISTINGUISH OUR JOINT COMMISSION FROM ALL OTHERS.

6. IT WAS AGREED THAT WE WOULD MEET AGAIN ABOUT NOVEMBER 23 AFTER CONSULTING WITH OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS ON THE POINTS RAISED. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO PRESENT ANSARY WITH A DRAFT PROPOSAL COVERING ALL OF OUR THOUGHTS AT THAT TIME AND REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS THAT MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN SUCH A DRAFT BY COB NOVEMBER 21. A SEPARATE MESSAGE CONTAINING THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT NOTE WE DISCUSSED WITH ANSARY NOVEMBER 16 FOLLOWS.

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